INCOME-TAX ASSESSEES IN KUNNAMKULAM—VERIFICATION OF RETURNS, ETC.

320. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of income-tax assessees from among the residents of Kunnamkulam in 1115; their number in 1116;

(*b*) whether in making assessment, the officers of the Income-tax Department have taken pains to see that the interest due or payable on loans advanced by the assessees are correctly calculated for purpose of assessment;

(*c*) whether the officers of the Income-tax Department have verified the returns of the assessees referred to in (*a*) with reference to the records of the Law Courts?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: (*a*) 1115—16, 1116—16.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes, as far as practicable.

SCHEME TO BRING UNDER CULTIVATION ALL AVAILABLE LANDS

321. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) has Government evolved a scheme to bring under cultivation all the available cultivable lands in the State subject to availability of persons to cultivate them and feasibility of cultivating them to meet the situation arising out of shortage of food in the near future;

(*b*) has Government hitherto done any propaganda work in this line;

(*c*) is Government prepared to lease lands to poor people with a view to bring them under cultivation in the near future;

(*d*) will Government be prepared to bring pressure upon *jenmies* and other rich people who are owners of land uncultivated to lease it to tenants under special conditions with a view to meet the emergent situation which will face us shortly;

(*e*) is Government prepared to encourage merchants to bring down large quantities of paddy, rice and other essential commodities with a view to tide over the situation without unnecessary restrictions?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)*: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

(*e*) The question is not clear. It is not understood what sort of encouragement is meant.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: I want to make clear what I mean. That is, merchants order for large quantities of paddy and rice. The one difficulty that stands in the way of getting down is that they are obtaining a very small margin of profit. In the second place, there is the fear that paddy or rice that they are stocking may be commandeered by the Government at any time. They will get only a smaller price. If that sort of misunderstanding is cleared, it is quite likely that merchants may get down larger stock, if the Government can find its way to allow them a decent margin of profit. I think it is encouraging the merchants to get larger profit.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The prices are being reviewed from time to time. There is a Regional Conference going on and as soon as we receive their further reports, the price control committee will again be convened and the whole question considered.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know whether in the committee which fixes the price of rice and paddy, there is any representative of the merchants?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Yes. There was a request from the south that one of the merchants might be included and Government have approved that request. We are waiting for their nomination. As soon as one is nominated, he will be included in the committee.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: One from the south and one from the north may be included. Cochin merchants have not to spend much by way of transport. With regard to merchants in the mofussil parts, there must be an additional margin, so that they might get some profit.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The question will be considered.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know, Sir, how many times the Price Control Committee revised the rates?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I want notice. I know 1½ months or one month ago they revised the present rates.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly